

LARGE OR SMALL 'N'?

Negro Race should be Designated by Capital Letter—Historical Argument in Support of Theory.

Editor The Colored American—In the issue of the Chicago Conservator of Feb. 8 last was printed a letter, under the caption, "He is Satisfied to be Little," and was signed by one C. V. McCoy, of Jacksonville, Fla.

The said C. V. McCoy challenged the Conservator with the query: "Why should the name Negro be written with a Capital N?" After essaying to suggest some points, bearing on the negative side of the question, he frankly and honestly confessed that his mind was vexed with uncertainty and that he was fretted. In his wild career, Mr. McCoy has grasped the truth of some things.

He is correct when he says that it is grammatical to begin all proper names with capital letters, and he goes far enough to back this statement up with examples of proof by mentioning races and nations, as, the African, the German etc. Then, by the way, he says that no mongrel race, so far as he knows, is, or was ever, honored with a proper name. Stranger you have reckoned without your host.

Let us take for instance the people of the Philippine territory. Under a common term they are called Filipinos and that is a proper name, although they have never obtained nationalism, nor have they a written language, and unlike the American Negro, these people can represent the blood and hint the features of nearly every race that inhabit the globe.

The name of each tribe of them invariably begins with a capital letter. For example, we mention the Tagals, the Ilocanos and the Maccabebes.

The gentleman in question asserted that, so far as his observation extended, no race, descended from two distinct races, was ever honored with a proper or uncommon name.

But nevertheless, I have showed him as plain as day light a mongrel race of people, a family as it were, comprising nearly all of the distinct lineaments of the races of men, and who are, so far as orthography is concerned, honored among the nations and races.

My contemporary in the far off state of Florida, also says that in the writings of Shakespeare, he failed to see more than one reference to the word Negro and that that word began with a small n.

Considering the proud and independent spirit of that great poet, we are grateful to him that he did not write it "nigger," instead, which literally means nobody. The word Negro, began with a small n, is vulgar and read between the lines it is but a synonym of "nigger."

The colored children of Ham who nourish their destiny at the pedestal of a liberty-loving nation, and who are the descendants of the pure, should not be less proud of their pedigree than the unlettered children of other lands are of their adopted names.

E. H.

Violinist Douglass Abroad.

Mr. Joseph H. Douglass, our favorite violin virtuoso, has returned home, after quite an extensive tour of the summer resorts. He was accompanied by Mr. Ford Dabney, a pianist of much talent, who rendered valuable service in the numerous concerts. Mr. Douglass achieved marked success in New-

port, R. I., in July playing at the palatial cottage of Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, the multi-millionaire and president of the Illinois Central Railroad. Mr. Fish's home, called "The Crossways" is one of the finest in fashionable Newport. Mr. Douglass spent some time also at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Nantucket, Fall River and Atlantic City, filling profitable engagements at each place. He expects to put on a star concert here for the entertainment of the G. A. R. encampment visitors, after which he will make a tour of the great South, which he has never visited. He will do well in that section, where merit is substantially appreciated and where the memory of his distinguished grandfather, Frederick Douglass, will forever remain green.

The Season's Millinery.

In the millinery shapes for early Autumn, says the October Delineator, the most conspicuous favorite is the toque with low, circular crown and brim turned up straight all around, of the same height as the crown. The Marquise or tricorn shapes will be popular in felt and also in velvet and beaver, and wings, breasts and pompons will be the trimmings chiefly employed. The sweeping ostrich plume will be used to adorn dressy hats, black and white being the usual choice. Hats made entirely of shaded Autumn leaves are especially suited to the season—The Delineator.

Bruce Gritisms.

Continued from Tenth page.

places upon himself is what gives him standing among certain Negroes who are dazed by his display of wealth and power.

Though I stand alone (and I am willing to) I refuse to accept the dicta promulgated by the white man and disseminated by some Negroes who seem to be ignorant of the achievements of their race in the domain of intellect, that the white man is "it." There are other "its"—but the "grand hypnotism" practiced by white men and approved by their black worshipers, minimize their value and importance of these other "its," but does not wholly destroy them.

Any race can become powerful and potential when it constantly draws upon other races to sing its praises and contribute to its greatness. That is just what is going on in this country today. The great composite white race, mis-called the "Anglo-Saxon," has laid all other races under tribute to it, including the Negro.

Would it not pay to be a little more original to develop original manhood and womanhood and be our real selves? One cannot go to a public meeting of Negroes that he does not meet at some stage of the proceedings a Sir Oracle in ebony who is as unlike a Negro in speech and manner as it is possible to imagine.

The white man who is just as human as ourselves, just as weak mentally and morally, will have infinitely more respect for us if we show him as we can, if we try hard, that we have ideas and ideals of our own. He won't let us be white, if he find it out. So let us be Negroes.

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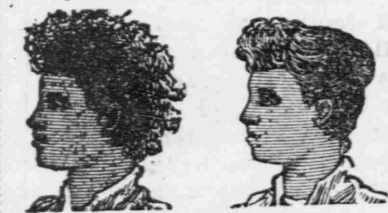
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